



## **The Coast Sustainability Trust**

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### **August 2004 News Release**

#### **The Coast Sustainability Trust invests in the Comox Strathcona area**

Over the past eight months the Comox Strathcona Regional Steering Committee of the Coast Sustainability Trust approved \$325,000 in funding for four initiatives that will help create jobs and stimulate economic activity in the Comox Strathcona area.

The Homalco Indian Band will receive \$100,000 towards a \$260,000 eco-tourism project. These funds will be used to enhance the Band's eco-tourism project by having a totem pole carved and raised, training traditional dancers and drummers; constructing a wheelchair accessible bear watching tower; and establishing a solid national and international publicity network. The upgrades will start in the summer of 2004.

The We Wai Kai First Nation will receive \$100,000 towards a \$2,276,056 project to install infrastructure will become part of the We Wai Kai First Nation's Economic Development Zone located on the outskirts of Campbell River. When completed, the infrastructure will permit the development of the We Wai Kai First Nation's commercial development, starting with an easy access fuel and service depot.

The Comox Valley Harbour Authority will receive \$100,000 toward a \$621,500 project to construct a building on a platform in the Comox Harbour to house laundry, showers, washrooms, information and administration services, to support vessel tourism. Construction will start in the summer of 2004.

The Ehattesaht Tribe will receive \$25,000 towards an \$82,000 project to establish a woodlot within the Zeballos area. The timber from the woodlot will be a supply for mills in the local area and/or will be sold on the open market. The project will include the recruitment of a manager to prepare a business plan and manage the timber salvage business related to the timber salvage agreements.

“This brings the total number of approved projects in the Comox Strathcona area to 7, with a total dollar value of \$624, 943,”said Trustee Eric van Soeren. “Five other applicants have been asked to submit detailed stage two proposals, and other proposals are expected. This program is bringing communities in the Comox Strathcona area together to create enhanced tourism and commercial opportunities to overcome the current economic challenges that they are faced with”.

“The Coast Sustainability Trust has encouraged the Comox Strathcona area to bring an innovative approach to economic development in their region which helps to stimulate the local economy and attract future development,” said Minister of Sustainable Resource Management, George Abbott.

Over the next year the Coast Sustainability Trust plans to invest a total of \$1,000,000 in Comox Strathcona community based projects.

“The Regional Steering Committee members, Bill Harrison, Peter Rambo, James D. Wilson and Rick Everson are all working hard to sift through the many worthwhile projects,” said van Soeren. “Their task is to decide which of the initiatives seem most likely to provide long-term sustainable economic development in the communities of the Comox Strathcona area.”

Interested parties are invited to go to the Coast Sustainability Trust website at [www.coastsustainabilitytrust.com](http://www.coastsustainabilitytrust.com) and follow the links to the Community Guidelines (Stage One Proposals).